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The Daily Commercial.

"MEDORA LEIGH."

An Addition to the Literature of the Byron Story.

Dr. Charles Mackay's Answer to Mrs. Stowe.

An Interesting History and Autobiography.

More Private Letters Made Public.

The literature of the Byron controversy has received an addition, which is sure to attract quite as much attention as it deserves, in the shape of a volume published in London by Bentley, entitled *Medora Leigh: a History and an Autobiography.* Dr. Charles Mackay stands as sponsor for this volume, prefacing the autobiography with an introduction and following it with a commentary on the charges brought against Lord Byron by Mrs. Stowe. We give herewith, from an advance copy of this work, a summary of its contents, leaving our readers to decide upon the credibility of the story, and to determine whether it makes for or against Lord Byron. Dr. Mackay states in his preface how he came upon the biography, and follows this with an introduction, covering eighty pages, or nearly one-third of the whole volume, and consisting of a review of the whole of this sickening controversy, interlarded with admissions of Lord Byron and sharp attacks upon Mrs. Stowe, whom Dr. Mackay styles a "Yankee," and, as if that were not enough, an "ultra Yankee." This introductory chapter closes with the following brief statement of what Dr. Mackay expects this history and autobiography of Medora Leigh to prove:

But though it is evident from all contemporary evidence, and from Lady Byron's own letters to Mrs. Leigh, that the charges of incest were not made in 1816—and from Lady Byron's letter to her friend Lady Anne Barnard, in 1818, that it was not for some time after—that Lady Byron is equally evident the story as told by Mrs. Stowe—to which, as to the charges in 1816, on the charge was first made at a much later time, and by other persons than Lady Byron herself, and did Lady Byron, during her whole subsequent existence, ever come to England to urge a claim which she considered to be founded in fact. The generosity and kind feeling of Lady Byron; and her experiences from Paris to London had been deeply affected by the evidences that she saw of the brilliant army. . . . The officer, who had long been her friend, was then in Paris, and was commonly in her twenty-eighth year, and was good looking, with dark eyes and hair, and a dark complexion, and was altogether a very interesting gentleman. . . . He had then recently come to England to urge a claim which was

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MONDAY JANUARY 3, 1870.

THE oath of office was administered by Judge MCCANDLESS to the Hon. WILLIAM MCKENNAN, as Circuit Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit, on Saturday. Judge MCKENNAN will enter on his judicial duties at the term which commences at Erie to-day.

BY way of HAVANA we have a report that the insurrection is ended by order of the Cuban Junta. We conclude that the grain of truth in the report is not perceptible, as the Junta, in New York, have for a short time past been and are now active and hopeful.

IT is something to make a special note of that those who went "the grand rounds" of the official receivers in Washington, on New Years day, commencing with the White House, were not able to obtain a drop of "the ardent" to drink. There was plenty of whatever was *good* for them—water, coffee, etc., but with these the fluids ended. Long may the practice continue!

WE print in another column a communication from WM. W. REED, Esq., Superintendent of the Erie Canal, on the subject of the enlargement of that work, which will be found of interest to our business men and capitalists. As Superintendent of the canal for a number of years, Mr. REED has acquired a thorough knowledge of its details. He also accompanied W. MILNOR ROBERTS, Esq., in his survey of the canal in October, 1867. The Erie *Dispatch*, in referring to Mr. REED's communication and the project for enlarging the canal, says:

> The charge that the project is in the hands of a "ring," organized to defraud the people, is without a particle of evidence to support it. It is manifestly instigated by the enemies of the improvement for the purpose of disorganizing public sentiment and diverting public attention from the merits of the project that Mr. REED has disposed of. The assertion that the senator from this district has any pecuniary interest in so pushing the measure, is the perfection of the enlargement is proven by the combination of men of scientific attainments. They have been subject a special study and pre-united the sound reasoning of many years of observation and experience. The opposition of an interest whose business may so suffer public affected by a new competition, is natural and legitimate, but personal or political animosity in the manner of parties for opposing a measure of common benefit to all.

ANOTHER addition has been made to the nauseous BYRON scandal, in the shape of an autobiography of Miss MEDORA LEIGH, "the child of sin" of Mrs. STOWE's statement. We have not seen the book, but copious extracts from it are given in the New York papers of Saturday, and from these we gather that the narrative neither directly refutes nor directly confirms Lady BYRON's charge against her husband. Dr. CHARLES MACKAY, so well known in this country, who edits the volume, makes Miss LEIGH's narrative the occasion and basis of a defense of the celebrated poet. Whatever the influence of the book may prove to be upon his reputation, its chronicle of sin, shame, eccentricity, and so forth, suggests abundant reason why the friends of Lady BYRON should have abstained from vindicating her name or memory by the publication of the statement for which Mrs. STOWN has made herself responsible. Its revelations place that lady's indiscretion in a very strong light before the indifferent world—it must seem little less than horrible to the aristocratic family—the way wardness, or eccentricity of whose members has so notably made the subject of public gossip in consequence of the agitation which she has provoked.

MORE QUESTIONS FOR U.S. QUAY.

It is somewhat surprising how questions for Mr. QUAY to answer or refuse to answer, just as he pleases, accumulate. Numberless inquiries full of meaning, with all the necessary information, and extremely perplexing if the truth is to come out, have been forwarded to us from different quarters, which we reserve for future use. But the following, propounded by *Father Abraham*, we reproduce as a fair sample of many others. From the paper named we quote as follows:

> Mr. QUAY is a public man, and sets himself up as the ringleader, and publicly boasted that "his slate" is bound to go through; and as all these facts are supposed to have been familiar to the public and none of brimming out the truth, questions leading upon Mr. QUAY as a financial operations while he was a member of the Legislature and candidate for the spreakership, session of 1867, are in order, and we respectfully beg leave to ask him a few additional questions to those gained in the proceedings before the Aldermen, which he may answer through the columns of the *Radical*:
>
> 1st. Question—When you was a candidate for Speaker Mr. QUAY, session of 1867, did you say that you only accepted the honor and responsibility sufficiently to make it and thus to secure them you needed to pass your bills?
>
> 2d. Question—Did a friend then call on you and agree to furnish you with said sum, and did you call on the Lancaster delegation, and the Democratic on the caucus, as did another to the said sum and agreed to it their support, and failed because the other parties had already secured them?

We were going to ask another question in regard to an interesting financial operation in North street, Philadelphia, about the same time, but as Mr. QUAY is a little slow about answering, we will not press anything more upon him at this time.

Will Mr. QUAY come to the scratch, so that the whole truth may be brought out? Here is a good place to say that Mr. QUAY is only one of a nice party in the same boat, and equally interested in the development of truth. A set of questions for each in turn cannot fail to awaken a lively interest in the public mind, even if the embarrassment to the questioned should be considerable.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Pennsylvania Legislature will meet to-morrow. Unusual interest attends the event. On no former occasion have the members come together with anything like the scrutiny that is certain to be applied to their every act. The discussions of the last several months have been such as to dispel every doubt from the mind of the Republican representative as to what his party and the people at large expect. This expectation may be summed up by saying that the Treasury Ring, whereof Mr. MACKEY is the candidate, has by its almost undisguised practices become so odious to the Republicans that support of it by a Republican representative will be at the greatest peril of himself as a party man, and the success the certain ruin of the party. The Republican Senators and Members assemble under a full knowledge of all this. Public sentiment has been expressed with an emphasis that permits of no question, and the representative that disregards it must expect to incur the penalty at the hands of that large body of Republicans who will not longer be trifled with. We credit Republican Senators and Members with a knowledge of this, and with the conviction that the Treasury Ring are probing matters to a fatal extreme.

The belief that the unexpended balance of the public money, amounting to an average of a million and a half of dollars, has, contrary to law, been used for private advantage and in payment of corrupt promises made to secure the office of State Treasurer, is very general,—indeed the allegation is scarcely disputed. It has been made in quarters entirely reputable so distinctly that it would seem to require the action of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth. A reformation of this great abuse the people of the State require at the hands of the Legislature. Be the allegation true or false, the Republicans of the State will be satisfied with nothing short of a law making the State Treasurer a salaried officer and placing of the public money beyond the possibility of its being manipulated for private advantage. On this reform the Republicans of Pennsylvania are as united and determined as ever they were on any single question. Opposed to it, however, stands the Treasury Ring, with Mr. MACKEY as its candidate. Reelect him, and the entire power of the combination will be brought to bear to defeat this most reasonable reform. How can Senators and Members pretend to their constituents, whose eyes are now fixed on them, that they mean to reform the Treasury system and still support Mr. MACKEY? Who will believe that they intend a right ending when they make such a wrong beginning? The pretense is simply dishonest. Whoever yet heard of men professing to favor a reform placing its worst enemies in a position to defeat it? Do Republicans flatter themselves that they will stand justified before their constituents in thus acting? Let them take heed and be ware of the fatal step which desperate men urge them to take.

The question is one of grave public import. It is not one of an hour or a day. It is thoroughly understood everywhere. It is not personal in its character, except so far as the Ring is concerned. The line between their interest and the interest of the people is sharply defined. On the one hand stands the Ring, on the other the People. The question which Republican members of the Legislature must decide for themselves is, whom they will serve. There is, there can be, no middle ground.

Radical reforms are seldom worked out without patient and persistent effort. Frequently, as in the present case, interested combinations are the last obstacle to be overcome. But overcome in the end they will be. Does any one dream that the day of retribution has gone by? Is it supposed that the people can always be trifled with—that a reform so reasonable as that proposed regarding the Treasury is going to be pushed aside, or that men, however loudly they may profess friendship, can survive the act of giving a new lease of power to its enemies? It is to this complexion the question has come.

NOR is this all. It is not solely the unexpended balance and attending influences corrupting to legislation and demoralizing in a thousand ways that furnish the reasons why the Ring should be denied another lease of the Treasury. It is notorious that last winter this combination framed and pressed well nigh to success a tax law whereby the unexpended balance would have been swelled an additional million, without a single new necessity of a public character existing. In a word, the law was framed to transfer a million of dollars from the pockets of the people to the Ring,—to be manipulated with the rest of the unexpended balance. In pressing this law Mr. MACKEY was conspicuous. "It is my bill," was his own language. It barely failed at the very close of the session. In this Mr. MACKEY suffered a defeat. But it is notorious that with his re-election will reappear the infamous bill. The power of the position will be marshaled in its behalf. The strength developed for it—bad as it was—last winter, only shows how great will be the danger if the Ring obtain a new lease of the Treasury. If the bill is to be killed, its promoters must be defeated. Old members know well how this is. Nor is this the only measure which will be sprung on the Legislature and the people if the Ring succeeds. The leaders are prolific in resources. One year more is all they ask. In that time their gains will be enormous, and it will matter little to them after that what happens to the party or those who were duped into giving them their support.

These in part are the circumstances under which the Legislature will assemble. To Republicans the occasion is of grave import—especially so to those who in acting will decide for themselves their future standing as men, and the fate of their party.

AMERICAN COLLEGES IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

A large proportion of our able and distinguished men in public life have never been at college. Some of them have received an essentially collegiate training in private schools, but many of them belong to the class of self-taught men. Amidst the toils of mechanical or mercantile pursuits, they have acquired the mental discipline and the stores of knowledge by which they so conspicuously shine as luminaries in the learned professions and in the halls of legislation. The people honor them, money flows in upon them, and perhaps few of them ever see much, if any, reason to regret that they were not sent to college in their youth. Nothing can be more successful than success, and if wealth and honors do not constitute that splendid acquisition, even Mr. PARTON could not tell us what are its elements, or wherein it consists. Mr. EMERSON, indeed, gives an account of a self-made man, who is not only brilliantly successful in life, but who, in spite of his achievements, never could get rid of a most painful feeling of inferiority in the presence of the least successful man, who had enjoyed the advantage of a residence in college. Were such cases numerous, we would say that it is well to go to college for a little while, just for the effect of the experience up on the consciousness or feelings of the student. Even a week's sojourn would be worthy of sufficient consideration, or render impossible the awe inspired by the name of the thing. But we fancy that cases like the one described by Mr. EMERSON are of exceedingly rare occurrence. In our happily constituted society the successful man must be exceedingly morbid in disposition, or very insensible to external impressions, if he fails to find in the end he has gained abundant compensation for all fanciful or even real deficiencies.

But many of our self-made men obtained for themselves the advantages of a collegiate education. In fact a much larger number than some suppose of our members of Congress and conspicuous politicians have been and are graduates of colleges. In England, a few years ago, somebody was at pains to prove, by the investigation of catalogues, calendars, &c., that a majority of the judges and eminent civil servants had not only been university men, but had taken honors in the university. Our country is so extensive, we have so many colleges, and there is so little general knowledge of the matter, more than in another, that such an investigation relative to the education of American statesmen, jurists &c., would be very difficult, and, it may be, not particularly interesting in its results. Of the members of an English ministry perhaps nearly all have been connected with one or another of two or three Universities. The only question of curiosity is which of these seats of learning can claim the largest number of them as its sons. On an American Cabinet, we suppose, it rarely happens that any two members have been educated at the same college. Hence it seems wor h while to mention the fact, really quite remarkable, which we have not seen anywhere noticed, that two Heads of Departments in General GRANT's Cabinet are not only graduates of the same college—that of New Jersey, at Princeton—but were in college at the same time, at least during a part of their course. Examining the Triennial Catalogue published in 1856, we find that Mr. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, was graduated in the class of 1826, and that Mr. WILLIAM WORTH BELKNAP, Secretary of War, was graduated in the class of 1848.

While referring to this subject, we may say that Princeton has graduated a very large number of young men afterwards distinguished in the legal and political annals of the country. In the class of 1771 occur the names of HUGH HENRY BRACKENRIDGE of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and JAMES MADISON, of Virginia, President of the United States, and in the class of 1772 occur the names of WILLIAM BRADFORD, WILLIAM SMITH LIVINGSTON and AARON BURR.

ERA OF EARTHQUAKES.

We seem to be living in an era of earthquakes. And the frequency with which the earth in various countries has been shaken during the last few years, has led to much writing and speculation on the general subject of what are call seismic phenomena. In *Old and New* for January, Mr. WILLIAM T. BRIGHAM gives some account of the many disturbances of this kind by which New England has been shaken. In that highly-favored part of the country, one hundred and forty-nine of these quakes are recorded to have taken place between the first settlement and the year 1869, and several have occurred since. Though not comparable in their destructive effects with the earthquakes of South America, some of them have been of great severity. Yet in building their houses the people have paid no attention to the possibilities suggested by these occurences in the past. And hence Mr. BRIGHAM thinks that if the shock of 1755 were repeated now, "half Boston would be ruined and the loss of life terrible." This same writer anticipates that by the use of an instrument of recent invention, called "the self-register ing seismometer" or shake measurer, much light will be thrown upon the cause of earthquakes, one of the most obscure subjects at present. In connection with these tremendous convulsions of the earth, we usually think only of destruction. It appears, however, from a late foreign paper, that the shocks of some time ago, between Wiesloch and Heidelberg, in Germany, have led to a very valuable discovery. By the overthrow of an ancient limestone wall, an unsuspected passage, concealed for many centuries was opened up, which, on examination, proved to be a mine worked by the Romans. In it were found not only Roman mining implements, but a great quantity of the ore, carbonate of zinc. The ancient miners were in pursuit only of silver, and left this ore behind as of no value. Earthquakes have, we believe, often been the means of revealing veins of the precious and other metals.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The Board of Education for New York City set down the number of children in the city who attend no school whatever at from 15,000 to 20,000—certainly a very safe margin. The whole number of pupils taught was 227,825. The average attendance was 102,980. The amount expended was $2,261,361, and the estimate for 1870 is $2,326,065. Two hundred teachers have been engaged in the male, and one hundred and twelve in the female schools.

A letter from Madrid says the Spanish Government is releasing criminals in prisons, on condition of enlisting to fight in Cuba. Ten thousand men will be sent out in January.

Mr. BENJAMIN BAKER, of Key West, Florida, has sold his crop of pineapples this year for nearly seven thousand dollars. The crop was gathered from less than an acre and a half of ground. He has one hundred and fifty thousand plants which will be in bearing next year, and these cover less than seven acres of ground, and if sold at the same rate as this year's, will net him sixty thousand dollars. The pineapple crop of Florida next year will exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

During a recent exhibition made in Pompeii the objects turned up were a human skeleton, almost perfect, a pair of gold ear rings, with pearls, 752 silver coins, three silver rings, and sixty-seven pieces of bronze money. The coins were all of the Consular and Imperial periods. The jewelry and coins will be placed in the Naples Museum, and the skeleton in the Pompeii Museum, together with the human remains previously discovered.

The Western Union Telegraph Company announce on and after January 1 messages will be received at the following rates: To the United States east of the Mississippi river, including St. Louis, for transmission during the night after all other full rate dispatches have been forwarded, a reduced rate of one-third of the half the usual tariff rates, provided, however, that the tolls in any such half-rate communication shall not be less than twenty cents.

The special committee on the revival of American commerce have reported against subsidies for American ocean steamers as the best mode of reviving ocean commerce, and the carrying of American mails exclusively by our own steamships.

The receipts from customs from the five principal ports for the week ending the 30th are reported to the Treasury as follows: Boston, $262,000; New York, $1,000,000; Philadelphia, $86,689 88; Baltimore, $6,925 77; San Francisco, $320,125 79; total, $1,816,920 68. The figure which Philadelphia cuts in the list is humiliating, if she has any pride left in her, which ought to bestir herself so as to, at least, keep pace with Baltimore.

Mr. SPINNER has written a letter in which he says the Administration are not so much in search of a monopoly as the old State banks were, and that the monopoly most to be feared is the railroad, which is fast acquiring control of State legislation.

A New York letter of Friday says: Sundry "railway kings" connected with the Pennsylvania Central, and several of the Western roads, met here to-day, and had a long conference upon business looking to the farther consolidation of Western roads in the interest of the corporation first mentioned. A day or two will elapse before they adjourn.

The Richmond spiralic excitement in and about Belvidere, Illinois, has led to the discovering of pork generally, and those who have eaten it largely, for a few days, without any unusually sufficient time elapsed to make it certain they have escaped the terrible disease. It has been ascertained that the hog which caused the first alarm was raised on what is the most rotten. He was fit for nothing out to kill and bury. The progress of the cases is watched with deep interest, as important scientific developments are likely to result from a proper study of the disease in so aggravated a form.

The health of King Victor Emanuel no longer causes any uneasiness. His Majesty has, however, left for Turin to escape a second attack of fever. He was taken relapsed frequently returns at intervals of a few months with persons who have once been attacked by it.

The celebrated sculptor, LAUNITZ, to whose chisel the group of the Seven Maccabees are indebted for the admirably executed Gunter's Monument, has just died, after a tedious illness, at the age of seventy-four. He was a native of Lubeck, but for many years before his death had resided at Frankfort, which he regarded as the home of his adoption.

PERSONAL.

It is denied that Mr. THORNTON, the British Minister, is to be recalled. He will doubtless remain in Washington to manage the Alabama question.

Rev. Henry W. Bellows, in his address before the Union League of New York, made the following allusion to Mr. STANTON's fame: While the ordinary glories of war are dimmed by the reductions from the sober estimates of history, the name of EDWIN M. STANTON, the War Minister has only begun to glow, and that the ray, beautiful and warm as they are white, within doubt to endure for ages, and to illuminated splendor about his tier and hardly-secured place, will be reflected from the fame that will fill distant ages and climes with the perfume and the glory of his deeds and his riches.

In regard to the resignation of Senator Pratt, of Indiana, the facts are said to be that it was sent to the Governor, of that state several days, and the politicians wanted to keep it quiet so as to control the appointment of the successor, but the secret leaked out, and the resulting has raised a buzzing around Mr. Pratt's ears, to some limit that he cannot be surprised at. The result is a temporary withdrawal of the resignation.

The alleged forgery of the will of Miss Steinecke, for the murder of whom Dr. Schoeppe has been on trial in the United States court

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

PITTSBURGH, January 3, 1870.

The New York *Herald* says: "Now that the last day of the year has arrived we can fix the extreme range of the price of gold during the preceding twelve months, 1869 will be memorable for the wide fluctuations which have characterized a period of peace. The highest price was on the 24th of September, the day of the gold panic, when it reached 165, and the lowest on the 30th of December, when it touched 119½. The highest and lowest prices in each year since the suspension of specie payments were as follows:

Year.	Highest.	Lowest.
1862	137	100
1863	172½	128
1864	285	153½
1865	245½	128
1866	167¾	125
1867	152	132
1868	139	134
1 69	165	119½

—The receipts and disbursements at the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, at New York, for the month ending December 31, 1869, were as follows:

November 30, 1869, by balance.....$ 87,231,751

Receipts during the month:

Customs	$ 6,969,666
Gold Bonds	8,260,720
Internal Revenue	1,721,781
Three per cent. certificates	15,000
Post-Office Department	290,468
Transfers	14,204,750
Patents fees	1,878
Miscellaneous	9,757,627
Disbursing accounts	7,845,824
Assay Office	137,878
Interest accounts	2,880,118
	51,554,741
Total	$138,786,492

Payments—

Treasury; drafts, &c.,	$33,421,493
Gold office	209,216
Disbursing accounts	7,460,186
Bonds matured	209,870
Interest accounts, viz: In Gold	2,430,597
	48,729,364
Balance	$90,057,428
Balance to c. f. Treasurer U. S.	$80,749,574
Do. disbursing accounts	7,307,854
Do. Assay Office	1,937,446
	$90,057,428

Receipts for customs in December, 1869 $6,969,666
Receipts for customs in December, 1868 6,857,073
Increase $112,093

—The Philadelphia *Inquirer* reviews the railway stock and bond market of Friday as follows: Railroad stocks were quiet but buoyant; 3,800 shares of Reading changed hands at from 48¾ to 50 1-16, an advance of ¼; Pennsylvania rose ¼; Lehigh Valley was steady; Big Mountain and Amboy ruled firm at yesterday's quotations. The closing prices were: Reading 48¾ Pennsylvania 56¾; Lehigh Valley 56¾; Camden and Amboy 119¾; Big Mountain 12; Little Schuylkill; 28¾; Philadelphia and Erie; 29; Northern Central 37 for North Pennsylvania; 55 for Elmira preferred; 30 for common do; 56¾ for Catawissa preferred; 29 for common do; 56¾ for Lehigh Valley; 50 for Minehill; 57 for Norristown; 57 for Northern Pacific; 67 for Elmira; 12 offered

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PITTSBURGH AND THE SOUTH.

The Proposed Railway from Pittsburgh to the South by way of the Monongahela Valley.

Referring to the late railroad meeting at Uniontown with reference to a railway from Pittsburgh by way of Uniontown to Fairmont and thence to Staunton, Virginia, a correspondent of the Fairmont *West Virginian* writes:

Being somewhat familiar with that section of country, as well as the valley of the Greenbrier river, and believing that there is no improvement more demanded at the present day for the public good, than a direct line of railroad from Pittsburgh toward the South, I have concluded to state some facts that do not appear to be known to our Pennsylvania friends. And first I would say that Staunton is not the most desirable point to reach in opening a shorter and cheaper line of freight and travel from Pittsburgh to the Atlantic and Southern States. That can best be secured by extending the road south of Fairmont to the valley of Maryland's Bottom, on Greenbrier river, and the White Sulphur Spring to some point on the Virginia and Tennessee railroad near Wytheville, and this would shorten the distance from Pittsburgh to Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, &c., at least two hundred and fifty miles over all other roads, not excepting the Connelsville road when completed. This road would then intersect the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at Fairmont, and the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad at the White Sulphur Springs, from whence freight and travel for Southeastern Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, &c., would go via Covington and Lynchburg, as the railroad from Lynchburg to Covington now will be made before this can be completed to the White Sulphur.

This route from Fairmont via White Sulphur to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad is not only practicable but most of the road is of easy grade, and will traverse a rich section of country almost the whole length, and perhaps is not surpassed in its deposits of iron, coal, slate, marble, &c., in West Virginia. A road to Staunton could not be as desirable as one to the White Sulphur, even if it should terminate there, and moreover it is quite impracticable, as it would have to cross not less than four of about the largest mountains in Virginia, to say nothing of smaller ones. The Staunton and Parkersburg turnpike crosses nine mountains from Beverly to Staunton, which distance is about 100 miles, and the railroad to that from Fairmont to Beverly, 68 miles, gives a total from Fairmont to Staunton, of 168 miles by any road, and the distance by railroad would have to be materially increased to reach that point. The distance from Fairmont to Marlin's Bottom, by turnpike, is 124 miles, thence to White Sulphur 46 miles, making 170 miles from the distance will probably be somewhat less by railroad.

As to the precise point most desirable to intersect the Virginia and Tennessee railroad, I am not sufficiently acquainted, beyond the Sweet Springs, in Monroe county, to say. It will be observed that few points have been named on this route as in several places there can be a choice of localities, and although a route northwest of Grafton might actually shorten the distance from Fairmont, it is not to be supposed that that would be chosen, but which there is no important point to connect, of course the shortest and best would be adopted. The valley of Tygart's Valley may be found preferable to the main river, likewise it may be found advisable to go down Greenbrier river from Marlin's Bottom in search of by Huntersville, head of Beaver creek, &c. There is, though, no avoiding Marlin's Bottom at the mouth of Knapp's creek, six miles from Marlin's, and 46 to the White Sulphur Springs, that is decidedly the most available route southwest to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.

Another correspondent writing on the same subject, from Grafton, W. Va., says:

I am truly glad to see a prosperous spirit manifesting itself in reference to the Monongahela Valley Railroad. The feeling here in behalf of the enterprise is excellent. You will remember that little Taylor has already pledged herself to a subscription of $50,000, and that Barbour and Randolph will now begin to see their interest, with other counties on the proposed line, and will express in as to the several amounts they will invest in this great artery of commerce. When we consider the fact that nearly all railroads in the United States pay a greater per cent on capital invested than any other investment, it is not strange that railroads are springing so numerously up. But when we look at the Monongahela valley, its soil and productions—the great wealth of water power—its contiguous and immense coal fields—its iron ore veins cropping out on every hill—its beds of fire-clay—its sand for the manufacture of glass—its great forests of the finest timber—with all these, and more, is it any wonder that this valley is attracting witnessing, in some degree, the awakening of the dormant energies of our citizens, and attracting the attention of foreign capitalists to the railroad projected. It is but a fixed fact that this road will be built, and built soon.

Within the past few days, an office has been opened here by a Pennsylvania company in the interest of this West Virginia line. Its wealth, intelligence and commercial influence of Morgantown will contribute much to that town the distinction of a point on this railroad; thence to Fairmont, the point we so much need. I believe, from a casual observation of a route made last summer, in a distance of *fifty-seven and seventeen* miles to the mouth of Buffalo creek at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The route from Morgantown to Fairmont struck me so forcibly, as a direct line, that I will here point it out for location: From Morgantown to Scott's creek, up said creek to Shuttleworth's mill, which will be about ten miles; thence a straight line through Morgan's eddy on the Monongahela river; thence to the river again opposite the mouth of Buffalo creek as stated above. This route, from Shuttleworth's, will require but two or three through cuts, the greater portion of the distance is side cuts. For further satisfaction I will suppose the route from Morgantown, through Shuttleworth's mill, say *six* miles. From there to Morgan's eddy, *five* miles. From this point to opposite Buffalo, say *five* miles, and you have *seventeen* miles.

But suppose the company should not desire to bridge the river at the mouth of Buffalo. By running two miles and half farther they reach the junction of the West and West Fork of the Monongahela, tapping the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, making the distance from Morgantown to that point *eighteen miles and a half!* This route will pass through and near the heaviest coal district in the Monongahela, from the mouth of Cheat to the mouth of the Valley river. This route will not only be one through immense coal wealth, but it is what is the great object sought with railroad companies, the shortest possible route between the points named.

THE LAKE COMMERCE.

Growth of Erie and Decline of Buffalo.

The annual statement of the commerce of the city of Erie shows a gratifying growth of many branches of foreign and domestic trade. The Erie *Dispatch* gives the statement in full and comments on it as follows: During the year, 2,558 vessels have entered and cleared, an increase of 216 over 1868. The trade is in many respects curious. Our trade in the principal staples, with the single exception of iron, has greatly increased. The entire exports of coal in 1868 were 231,888 tons, but this year they have reached the unprecedented amount of 369,434 tons an increase of more than fifty per cent. In the prominent imports there is also noteworthy increase. The importation of lumber, which in 1868 reached 5,779,360 feet, has this year reached 10,467,447 feet, almost the entire region, resulting from the American lumber since the termination of the extensively developed Canada forests. The most valuable article of foreign trade is barley shown by the custom-house returns. In 1868 the imports were but 2,952 bushels, while they have reached 111 year 188,091 bushels, showing an increase of more than 60 per cent. In a single season. Peas, coarse grains, flour, wheat, corn, flour and the cereal products generally have also increased to an extent which justifies the expectation that we may gain an inconsiderable importance as a grain port. There is a falling off in the trade in a few commodities, mainly confined to such as are in small demand, mainly confined articles of export have been introduced.

The Buffalo *Courier* publishes an extended review of the business of that port for 1869, which, it says, is not one of flattering prosperity. In the single item of grain receipts, Buffalo shows a decrease of nearly five million bushels. Under the heading, "The Decay of Buffalo," the Philadelphia *North American* thus refers to the most important cause of the commercial decline at Buffalo:

The time has been when that city had the opportunity of attaining a magnificent and remunerative trade with the Lake Superior region, which is now exclusively by Chicago. But the house enterprise was not there. Instead of building railroads themselves direct railroads to Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and other cities, the people of Buffalo relied solely upon the enterprise and the trade of New York city, and have now the result before them.

The Erie *Dispatch* says: The commerce of Buffalo has long been declining at a surprising rate. We sunjoin a statement of the vessels entering and clearing at that port since 1861:

	No. Vessels.	Tonnage.
1861	13,866	5,983,406
1862	16,396	6,868,181
1863	15,376	6,747,903
1864	14,196	6,861,116
1865	13,444	7,022,393
1866	13,928	6,917,650
1867	12,722	6,980,951
18 8	11,744	4,258,168
1869	10,534	4,091,214

The following is a statement of the business of our own port for the same period:

	No. Vessels.	Tonnage.
1861	1,958	312,872
1862	1,932	405,796
1863	1,929	411,940
1864	1,937	377,424
1865	1,607	395,889
1866	1,941	504,730
1867	2,113	489,279
1868	2,342	547,182
1869	2,438	878,891

We have taken the trouble to arrange these tables, to show further the tendency of trade in the two cities. Buffalo has five times our wealth, population and resources. Yet it is manifest that she is losing her commercial importance, and every year some portion of her lake trade is driven to other ports.

THE CARDIFF GIANT OUTDONE.

Alleged Discovery of the Skeleton of a Giant in the Oil Regions.

The Oil City *Times* of Friday is responsible for the following:

On Tuesday morning last, while Mr. Wm. Thompson, assisted by Robert R. Smith, was engaged in making an excavation near the house of the former, about half a mile north of West Hickory, preparatory to erecting a derrick, they exhumed an enormous helmet of iron, which was corroded with dust. Further digging brought to light a sword within measured nine feet in length. Curiosity incited them to enlarge the hole, and after some little time they discovered the bones of two enormous feet. Following up the "lead" they had so unexpectedly struck, in a few hours' time they had unearthed a well preserved skeleton of an enormous size, belonging to a species of the human family which probably inhabited this and other parts of the world at that time of which the Bible speaks, when it says, "And there were giants in those days." The helmet is said to be of the shape of those found among the ruins of Nineveh. The bones of the skeleton are remarkably white. The teeth are all in their places, and all of them are double, and of extraordinary size. These relics have been taken to Titusville, where they are visited by large numbers of people daily. When living and standing in the flesh, he must have stood eighteen feet in his stockings. These remarkable relics will be forwarded to New York early next week. The joints of the skeleton are now being glued together. These remains were found about twelve feet below the surface of a mound which had been there no up probably centuries ago, and which was not more than three feet above the level of the ground around it. Here is another nut for antiquarians to crack.

The story started some years ago in Paris by the enemies of Napoleon that the little Prince Imperial was not his son, has been revived, with the alleged discovery of evidence to prove its truth.

THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

Discord in the Assembly—How the First Meeting was Broken Up.

[Rome (Dec. 14) Correspondence London Times.]

The truth about the first meeting with closed doors (that is, on the 10th) is coming out. It was a scene of the greatest confusion. I am now told that the minority was one hundred and thirty. It was the Archbishop of Tennessee, in Croatia, it is now said, who was making a Latin speech, protesting against the forms and arrangements as interfering with the Independence of the Bishops, when the bell rang and he was called to order. Thereupon, it is added, the Primate of Hungary came to his rescue, and in his turn was called to order in a like manner. Upon this Dupanloup made a strong observation in good French and left the hall, with the Archbishop of Paris and a hundred others, in fact, breaking up the meeting. All the Bishops remaining in the room therefore, unless they have had no time to know what they are wanted to do; that they have only been allowed eight days to make one another's acquaintance; finally, that the Hall is intolerable. They are dying of cold, and they cannot hear one another. They say the present accommodation is utterly inadequate; that they require many more rooms, and three larger than would have been improvised in and about St. Peter's. I hear that some of them say the Council ought to have been held at the Lateran or Quirinal, where they might have had a whole palace for their work, and not merely a suite of rooms for their meetings and conference where they can, and Cardinals, and others who have been placed in high command, are holding nightly large reunions. Very late ones, too, I suspect, for the streets are getting dangerous at midnight, more so than when I came. Thus the first meeting on the 10th terminated in a regular tournament; and I cannot doubt that of to-day has done so also. This is not very promising for the presidency of the Pope over it. Indeed every day recedes further into the limbo of such projects. Unless the new rule of infallibility is adopted, it is now said positively the French Concordat will be at once withdrawn, and Pius XI. will find that with a new position new relations also will have to be arranged. So strongly is that intention announced that the Pope's friends accuse France of dictating, and Frenchmen do not deny the imputation. The situation is described on both sides as *gracieuse*, and nobody sees the way out, except by continual adjournments, till time itself may bring some sort of energy. But after sixty centuries being overtoad proclaimed by January 6, that is pronounced impossible.

Position of the American Bishops.

ROME, December 13.

* * * The Papal authorities have treated the Bishops with careful and discriminating hospitality. Those who could not be absolutely trusted have been lodged with safe companions, in the proportion of one weak to half a dozen strong. In one palace, two or three known to want their bath confirmed, are in charge of ten stout bathers. The Jesuits have taken the position of the flock, and have done it well. There is not one of them who has not his feelings sounded and reported upon daily; and the common study of the fathers is to ascertain who is to speak. In this way it will be ascertained what points can be passed without discussion, what is pressing and what not. But the Pope will probably not propose at all that which he would have to withdraw. The American Bishops, I hear it said, plead their difficulties at home. The Syllabus has excited a good deal of astonishment, and has been announced as an attack upon civil society, pulverizing as it does, the right of religionism to his fellow citizens. At first sight it might seem that a Constitution founded on the right of private judgment and the will of the majority, there would be no great reach in the papal claim to entire spiritual and social supremacy. But it is plain that the Americans have been long used to the kind of thing altogether, and that any maintainer of the Pope's infallibility and supremacy would be the very end of parties that will then find himself at a disadvantage. So the American Bishops are supposed to be afraid of it. *Indeed*, they say they cannot help themselves. The Irish are dangerous, and must have it. *Indeed*, they say they cannot help themselves. The Irish are dangerous, and must have it. *Indeed*, they say they cannot help themselves. The Irish are dangerous, and must have it.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.

A Child Shot Through the Breast While Walking Along the Street.

One of the most distressing accidents, resulting from the careless use of firearms occurred on New Year's afternoon, at the intersection of Wylie street and Fifth avenue. A lady named Mrs. Neuman, while walking along Fifth avenue, in front of Copley's building, having by the hand a little boy aged four years, was startled by the report of a pistol, which had been fired close to her. She was still more alarmed when her child began to scream, as if it had been shot. The first impression was that it had been only frightened, but its writhings soon showed that it had been injured. Mrs. Neuman soon observed blood running over the child's shoes, and fearing the worst began to scream and wring her hands in anguish. Mr. J. C. Smith, who keeps a cigar store at the point where the shooting occurred, had noticed three boys passing, just a moment before the shooting, one of whom had a pistol in his hand. He had passed out of sight when the shot was fired, and the loudness of the report attracted his notice. The boys were rather rough in appearance, and were fourteen or fifteen years of age. The last glimpse that Mr. Smith got of the pistol impressed him with the belief that the weapon had been aimed at something in front, and motion of the hand indicated that it was about to be discharged. The screams of the mother, at the sight of the blood, induced Mr. Smith to run out. On seeing the blood about the feet and no injury to the legs, he concluded that possibly the injury was about the body, and on opening the little's overcoat on that part the breast the bullet hole was apparent. The ball had entered the left breast, passed through the body and coming out at the back. The mother, almost frantic with grief, took the child in her arms and ran to Abel's drug store, a few rods distant. Dr. Wishard was soon summoned, and he stated that the ball had passed through the left lung. He dressed the wounds but expressed fears that death would result from internal bleeding. After the child was dressed it was taken to the residence of its parents, corner of Gist and Gibson streets. The father of the child is a cigar maker, and is employed in Hoch's cigar store, on Fifth avenue, a few steps from where the accident happened. The mother and child were on their way to this store. The name of the boy who did the shooting is unknown, but he should be hunted up, and his conduct investigated, as there are rumors that he was very reckless in the use of fire-arms and tool. Dr. Wishard yesterday reported the child as favorable a condition as could be hoped for. There was internal hemorrhage, but not to any great extent, and the prospects of recovery, however, are by no means flattering.

The practice of firing pistols in the streets, on holidays, is always fraught with great danger, and scarcely a holiday passes but there are accidents of this nature to report. The police should interfere with more vigor. A fine of five dollars, or ten days in the lock-up, for any one who fires a pistol on the streets, would have a wholesome effect, and if the law prohibiting shooting is very difficult of enforcement, but the evil might be greatly abated if a few arrests were made and penalties imposed.

CORONER'S INQUESTS DURING DECEMBER.

Number During the Year.

During the month ending December 31st, 1869, Coroner Clawson held inquests on the bodies of the following persons, who came to sudden and violent deaths in Allegheny county:

December 26, Jos. Fisher, Mifflin township, fell in crossing a fence, and died; 11th, Robert Lightbill, Allegheny, accidentally run over; 15th, Ann Reichard, death from being scalded; 17th, Maria Farrall, Sixth ward, death from congestion of the lungs; 18th, Daniel McMullen, death from drowning; 21st, July 27th, 1867, in the Ninth ward, while discharging a pistol, a police officer named John S. Smith, killed on Connellsville railroad; 30th, John Beinfang, death from lock-jaw; 24th, John Barrett, Allegheny, killed by the cars; from cuts of the Pennsylvania Rail-road Company; 25th, Mary Ann Kelly, Allegheny, drowned in the Allegheny river; 26th, Henry Seitz, Sharpsburg, killed by falling on Christmas; 27th, Allen L. Cole, boy, accidentally shot on Christmas; 31st, Susan Donnelly, death from congestion of the lungs, Allegheny city; 31st, Wm. Roop, coal miner, killed by a fall of coal in the mines of Pittsburgh Coal Co., at Brinton's station, Pennsylvania Railroad.

INQUESTS DURING THE YEAR.

From January 1st, 1869, to December 31, 1869, there were one hundred and eighty-six inquests held by Coroner, which is a falling off in the report of last year. There were a number of inquests held during the year by Deputy Coroners, and Aldermen of which no record is made on the books of the Coroner. These included would make the total number of inquests held during the year about two hundred and twenty-five.

THE KNIFE.

A Man Stabbed Twice.

Andrew O'Donnell and William Doras, both drunk, got into a difficulty in McLaughlin's saloon, corner of Washington Street and Webster avenue, on Saturday morning, at which time, it is alleged, Doras cut O'Donnell in the left wrist with a knife, inflicting a severe and painful wound. They separated after this, but it seems met again about noon, when the quarrel was renewed, and it is alleged, Doras struck O'Donnell again on the same arm above the elbow, inflicting a very dangerous wound across the arm. O'Donnell was taken to a drug store near by and Dr. Hopper called to see him. Doras was arrested and taken to the lock-up to await the result of O'Donnell's injuries. About noon on Sunday the same day O'Donnell called at the lock-up and asked the Mayor to release Doras. He said he would make no charge against him, that he could get along with one arm. Doras was not released, and about five o'clock Sunday afternoon he was in on a warrant for fighting with Doras. At the hearing of O'Donnell's case against Doras, twenty-five dollars and costs. Doras paid his fine but O'Donnell went up for thirty days in default.

Street Fights.

On the corner of Penn avenue and Eighteenth streets, Friday night, a row occurred during which one of the combatants was knocked against the window of Hoffman's store, a large pane of glass. No arrests were made.

About seven o'clock on Saturday morning a party of Irish, who began celebrating the New Year early, became involved in a difficulty on Webster avenue, during which one or two of the combatants were pretty severely beaten. They were all drunk, and becoming quieted before the police arrived. No arrests were made.

Six or eight drunken Irishmen got into a fight near the corner of Pike and Fourteenth streets on Saturday. The fight was kept up for considerable time and when the engagement ended there were several with cut heads and black eyes. No arrests were made in this instance.

A difficulty different from all of the above occurred in Virgin alley above Smithfield street on Saturday. The reason that it was different was because the female element participated. The combatants hammered each other pretty severely, but we are informed the females came out the winners. Wood was sent to the Mayor's office, and officers were dispatched to quell the disturbance but when they arrived at the scene of the affray, the disturbers of the peace had fought over from the house and no arrests were made.

A Concert by Chaplain McCabe To-Night.

Rev. Mr. McCabe, the well known chaplain, who was imprisoned during the rebellion in Libby Prison, and while there composed the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," which he sung to his fellow prisoners on hearing of the capture of Vicksburg and the success of Gettysburg, arrived in the city on Saturday, and delivered yesterday morning at Christ M. E. Church, Liberty in the morning he visited many of the Sabbath of the Smithfield M. E. Church, and while there was prevailed upon to give a concert in behalf of the school. He was compelled to leave the city Tuesday morning, he agreed to give the concert this evening in the Smithfield M. E. Church, and among other choice selections on the programme will be the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Chaplain McCabe has elecrified thousands with his singing of this hymn, and in fact, all his vocal nonconcert "got with great feeling. The announcement is sufficient to insure Chaplain McCabe hope, will hear it, and make up their minds to go this evening and hear the brave chaplain. Tickets will be for sale at the door.

About a Diamond Shirt Stud.

John J. Hoffman made information on Friday before Mayor Brush against James Guest, for larceny by bailee. It is alleged that Guest unlawfully retains possession of a Diamond shirt stud worth a hundred and fifty or two hundred dollars, the property of Hoffman. Guest was arrested and held for a hearing on Wednesday next. Guest does not deny that he received the stud, but avers, and Hoffman admits, that it was given Guest to pawn in order to raise New Year money. Guest was very much intoxicated, and appears to have mislaid the stud, Hoffman endeavored to get it up previous to the hearing on Wednesday.

MOTHER IN SEARCH OF HER DAUGHTER.—The Memphis *Sun* of last Monday says that an old lady named Mrs. Eliza Donovan, of Pittsburgh, discovered her way ward daughter on Friday morning last, after an anxious search of two years, in the fascinating Miss Lottie Mitchell, *alias* Mrs. Della Grant, *alias* Della Donovan, the prima donna of Dan Rice's Great Varieties, in Memphis. Miss Della married a man over fifty years of age, named James Acland *alias* Johnny Grant, and went to New York, where her gay and dashing husband left her to her own resources, and time enough for starving to her mother she took to the stage, where she prefers to remain. The mother has returned to her home minus her erring daughter.

A MAN called at the Mayor's office yesterday and stated that he had lost or had been stolen a pair of gloves which he purchased two years ago for $2 50. He had afterwards seen the gloves on the hands of another person, and demanding them, which the youth refused, he declared they were his and that he had purchased them at McKeesport. The loser did not care for the gloves, but he did not like the idea of being "gone through" by two country youths. He was satisfied that they were stolen from him. He wanted to make information, as was informed that he would have to call today, and he left the office vowing his intentions of doing so.

WATCH STOLEN.—Henry Dickison made information against Samuel Tucker, a colored man, for larceny, before Mayor Brush on Saturday morning. Dickison alleged that Tucker took him to a house on the hill, and while he was sleeping there, he accused him of taking a silver watch and chain, of the value of $10, from his vest pocket. Tucker was arrested by officer Weidenheim, and placed in the lock-up. He had a partial hearing yesterday morning, and held for a further hearing this morning. Tucker, after the hearing, admitted that he had taken the watch, and told where it was pawned. It will be produced to-day.

DEATH FROM EXCESSIVE DRINKING.—Susan Donnelly, residing on Gay alley, Fourth ward, Allegheny City, was found dead on the floor of her bed chamber on Friday morning last. The Coroner was notified and proceeding to the house held an inquest. The evidence before the jury went to show that the deceased had been drinking excessively for some time past, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts. Deceased was about thirty-five years of age, and has no children. She lived by herself, her husband being in Ireland.

CONCERT AND EXHIBITION.—The entertainment which was gotten up for the benefit of the Evangelical Mission Sabbath School, under the care of Rev. Hollinger, came off on last Wednesday evening, at Mozart Hall. It was a grand success. The recitations by the children were good, and the music under the direction of Prof. Hughes was excellent. Some of the soul-stirring quartettes rendered by Mr. Hughes and family were well worth the price of admission.

REMARKABLY QUIET.—Mayor Brush had but one case before him on Saturday morning, and two yesterday moning. They were all charged with disorderly conduct. The usual fines were imposed, which they paid. This speaks well for the peace and quiet of our sister city.

FIRE MATTERS.

Monthly and Yearly Reports of Superintendent of Fire Alarm Telegraph—Expenses and Improvements During the Year.

Mr. S. T. Paisley, Superintendent of the Fire Alarm and Police Telegraph, furnishes the following report for December:

Number of alarms	6
Blows on Central bell	447
Blows on Seventeenth ward bell	309
Blows on twenty-third ward bell	291
Total blows	2,049 00
Total Insurance	1,300 00
Pay roll	487 50

We subjoin below the number of fires during each month of the past year, together with the total loss and insurance:

	Fires.	Loss.	Insurance.
January	11	$ 4,599	$ 2,200
February	10	47,333	41,112
March	21	12,985	6,200
April	11	224,455	74,800
May	11	3,175	2,400
June	7	22,999	14,500
July	9	145	----
August	10	1,253	----
September	15	18,355	8,200
October	12	11,559	4,800
November	13	65,670	64,100
December	6	2,050	1,300

The greatest fire during the year occurred on April 14, when the extensive oil works of Messrs Forsythe & Bros. were destroyed. The loss at this fire reached nearly a quarter of a million dollars. There was one man burned to death. The body was not recognized, but from the fact that thirteen men are reported as missing, and reduced to writing by the clerk.

J. Wm. Ferson, of the city of Philadelphia, is at the Monongahela House, on Smithfield street, on business connected with the Pro-

PROBABLE HOMICIDE.

Man Stabbed in the Sixth Ward—His "Dying Declarations"—Escape of the Assailant.

On Friday night, a man named Wm. Ferson, an ingrain carpet weaver, went to the saloon of Mrs. Fleming, on the corner of Magee and Forbes streets, and took a glass of ale with Andrew Carr. Some time afterwards, the said Carr quarreled—there having been some bad blood between them before. They both threw off their coats, on the street, and undertook to settle their dispute with their fists. After fighting a little while, Ferson began to cry out that Carr was stabbing him, which turned out to be true, as he was found to have been stabbed in several places—the most serious wound having been inflicted in the abdomen. He was carried to the house of a man named Maloy, where his injuries were examined by a physician, who pronounced exactly dangerous. At two o'clock Saturday morning Mayor Brush was called upon to take Ferson's statement, and, in company with Clerk Patterson, he repaired to the house of Mr. Maloy. The following statement was then made by the injured man, and reduced to writing by the Clerk:

I, Wm. Ferson, of the city of Philadelphia, at present on Forbes street, do take this my dying declaration, as I believe I am fatally stabbed. On Friday night, December 31st, 1869, I met one Andrew Carr on the corner of Magee and Forbes street, city of Pittsburgh; Carr and myself were in the house drinking a glass of ale when we came out to the corner, we commenced talking about some business we had in a friendly way. Carr's brother and myself had a difficulty last Monday evening. I told Carr at the time that I could whip him and his brother; when we met last evening he said that his brother would be down to-day and why him; he (Carr) threw off his coat and I did the same; he went for a man to lend him; when they came back he made at me and struck me, and I struck him; Carr then drew a knife and struck me four or five times; I called to the men that he was stabbing me and to take him away; I saw the knife in Carr's hand; while I was being cut there were present William Campbell, James Campbell, Thomas Maloy, and Mary Maloy, after I was cut, I was taken to Dr. Balten's office, and from there to Dr. Lazo to the house of Thomas Maloy, where I am now, at the time I make this, and I feel and think that I will die from the effects of the cuts inflicted on me by Andrew Carr.

Ferson signed the statement by making his "mark," being physically unable to write. He came here from Philadelphia some two or three weeks since, to seek employment, but had not found any. He is about forty years of age, and has a wife and six children. Nothing seems to be a stranger here, and he has not yet been arrested.

PITTSBURGH MAYOR'S OFFICE.

Business Transacted During the Month—The Receipts $2,308 30.

Mr. J. S. Patterson, Mayor's Clerk, furnishes the following report of business transacted and fines, &c., collected during the month of December 31, 1869, at the Pittsburgh Mayor's office:

NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED OF.

The total number of cases disposed of was 812, classified as follows:

Disorderly conduct	393
Drunk and disorderly	353
Vagrancy	45
Information	49
Number discharged	75

RECEIPTS.

The receipts from all sources were as follows:

From fines	$1,504 30
From jail receipts	215 00
From city license	588 00
From dramatic license	150 00
Total	$2,308 30

The Newsboys' Eleventh Annual Dinner on Saturday—A Presentation.

The eleventh annual dinner to the newsboys, given by John W. Pittock, came off on Saturday afternoon at Lafayette Hall. The dinner was given on the same day of the week as formerly exclusively to the newsboys, but it also included the bootblacks, and we need not add here, that the invitation was generally accepted, and that a goodly number of this neglected class were present. The little waifs had been anticipating this dinner for some time past, as it has become one of the events of the day in this city, and it was the absorbing topic of conversation between them. On Saturday morning their faces were lit up with smiles, on account of the near approach of the annual feast. Fifth avenue, where many of them congregated in the morning, was made quite a lively place by their presence, for they did not attempt to restrain their feelings. Long before three o'clock, the time appointed for the first course, a large number had made their appearance in and around the hall, but it was some time after this before they got seated and ready to partake of the good things spread before them. There were one hundred and eighty boys present, all of whom appeared to partake heartily of the bountiful repast, and to enjoy themselves in the highest degree. They were all neatly attired, their hands and faces were clean, their conduct was good, and no stranger would have suspected what class of boys were before him. After the little fellows had done full justice to the meal, they were presented Mr. Pittock, for whom they had the strongest regard, an elegant bronze newsboy in statue. There were also present about a hundred invited guests, including many of our most prominent business men; ministers and members of the press, besides a large number of ladies. These sat down after the boys had finished, and also partook freely of the good things before them. The affair passed off very pleasantly, and will long be remembered by those who were present.

Sunday School Anniversary.

The Sabbath School connected with the Presbyterian Church at Hazelwood, held its third anniversary meeting on New Years' eve, in the new church building, on Linden street. The church edifice is not yet finished but the contractor, Mr. Samuel Thompson, arranged benches, &c., in it, and everything was neat and comfortable. The audience room was well filled, about two hundred children being present. There were also nearly all the members of the congregation, as well as a number of the congregation worshipping at the Christian Chapel. The exercises commenced at 8 o'clock and continued until half-past nine o'clock. The choir of the Methodist Church at Birmingham, under the leadership of Mr. Dunlap, furnished the music for the occasion, which was excellent. Rev. Mr. Haliday, pastor of the Christian Chapel, made the opening prayer and his address delivered a brief but appropriate speech. He was followed by a well-timed address from George H. Anderson, Esq., which elicited considerable applause. George J. Luckey, Esq., City Superintendent of Common Schools, was then called upon and in responding amused the little ones considerably by contrasting the occasion with a school. The warrior's march was then sung, and at last coming on to the enemy they would make a rush and capture the whole of the cakes. The little boys and girls would soon commence the march toward a table situated in a remote corner of the room, loaded with good things, and when they came up to it such a routing there would be. There would not be a bag of candy left to tell the tale of strife. The children were highly amused. The cakes and candy were then passed around to the children by the Committee of Arrangements, after which the older friends were served with cake, oysters, &c. The exercises throughout were the most interesting held by this Sabbath School.

Coal Miner Killed.

Wm. Roop, a coal miner in the employ of Dickson, Scott & Co., whose mines are located at Brinton's station, Pennsylvania Railroad, met with an accident on Friday which resulted in his death. He was engaged at work in one of the rooms of the pit, when a mass of "slate" or perhaps over a ton in weight, fell upon him, crushing him horribly. It required the combined efforts of six men to remove the slate. Coroner Clawson held an inquest on the remains, a verdict in accordance with the facts being rendered. The deceased was about thirty years of age, and leaves a wife and two children. He was born in Maryland and had lived about five years in this county.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Meeting of Temperance and Reform Committee of Allegheny County.

At a meeting of the Temperance and Reform Committee of Allegheny county, held on the 31st ult., George Finley in the Chair, and S. Y. Kennedy acting as Secretary, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, the Temperance and Reform movement of Allegheny was sustained by the people, and received a majority of the Republican voters at the recent election; and whereas we think the fundamentories us to speak for this majority on the questions now before the people; therefore

Resolved, That we are opposed to any *change in the law* regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors in Allegheny county, and re-affirm our determination to labor for the election of men pledged to a strict enforcement of its several provisions.

Resolved, That if the present license law is interfered with by additional legislation, or if the Republican party will not nominate men for the Legislature who will nominate a full ticket and appeal to the people.

Resolved, That the present Delegate County Convention and mailing system is wrong, as it makes the people the victims of corrupt rings, and selecting politicians, and should be changed for the Crawford county system.

Resolved, That the annual contests for State Treasurer and Auditor General, to the Senate, and should be provided against by the passage of a law providing for the establishment of the unexpended balance in the payment of the State debt, or the placing of said balance in the hands of deposit offices.

Resolved, That the action of the Republican Executive Committee in ignoring R. W. Hackney and calling for his renomination is without authority, and we, their right to speak for the Republicans of this county; on the contrary, we believe a large majority of the party are opposed to his renomination.

Resolved, That, as Republicans, we are ready to harmonize with all members of our party on the basis of the enforcement of the present license law, the election of proper men to office, and the thorough reform in the County System of Retrenchment and Reform in State and county affairs.

Resolved, That we call upon our members of the State Legislature to sustain our views as set forth in the foregoing resolutions, and to such as do so we pledge our undivided support.

Resolved, That we indorse the course of the Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL in its bold and fearless advocacy of political reform, and hereby pledge it our hearty support.

PRESENTATIONS.

Handsome New Year's Gifts.

Sheriff Cluley was presented, on New Year's day, with an elegant service of silver. The presentation speech was made by ex-Sheriff John H. Stewart, and was responded to by the recipient in a few happy remarks. Josiah Cohen, Esq., who was present, made some remarks appropriate to the occasion. The set, which was gotten up by John Stevenson & Sons, of Market street, consisted of a pitcher, salver, bowl and two goblets, all beautifully carved. On the salver the inscription was as following: "To Samuel B. Cluley, Sheriff, from his deputies—William Griffin, H. S. Borie, R. H. Pile, William G. Stubbs, Thomas B. Cluley, William J. Diehl, John Mitchell. January 1st, A. D. 1870."

John A Myler, Esq., Postmaster of Allegheny, was presented with a handsome gold headed cane by the employees of the office, John S. Nichols acting as spokesman, and the Postmaster replied in fitting terms. On the head of the cane was inscribed the following: "From the employees of the Post Office, January 1, 1870."

The employees of the Penn Cotton Mills, Allegheny, presented Mr. Wm. Atterbury, Esq., with a magnificent watch, and his wife with a very handsome pen. The presentation speech was made by Mr. C. J. Thomson on behalf of the employees.

The employees of the firm of Atterbury & Co., glass manufacturers, was made the recipient of a most handsome silver set, a gift from the evening of Doyle & Co. The presentation came off at Mr. Atterbury's residence, Wood street, yesterday afternoon. The set, Esq., made the presentation speech, and Mr. Atterbury responded.

The salesmen in the store of J. Klee & Bro., Wood street, presented the members of the firm, Messrs. Louis and Joseph Klee, each with a magnificent gold headed cane, appropriately inscribed. Mr. Louis Klee made the presentation speech, and Mr. Joseph Klee responded on behalf of himself and his brother.

Public Amusements.

OPERA HOUSE.—On Saturday evening, Mr. Edwin Adams concluded the most successful engagement of the season at the Opera House, and if it was satisfactory to Mr. Adams and the management, it certainly was to the public. Mr. Adams is a capable and deserving actor, and his efforts as Hamlet and Richelieu in several places—the most serious wound having been inflicted in the abdomen. He was carried to the house of a man named Maloy, where his injuries were examined by a physician, who pronounced exactly dangerous. At two o'clock Saturday morning Mayor Brush was called upon to take Ferson's statement, and, in company with Clerk Patterson, he repaired to the house of Mr. Maloy. The following statement was then made by the injured man, and reduced to writing by the Clerk:

I, Wm. Ferson, of the city of Philadelphia, at present on Forbes street, do take this my dying declaration, as I believe I am fatally stabbed. On Friday night, December 31st, 1869, I met one Andrew Carr on the corner of Magee and Forbes street, city of Pittsburgh; Carr and myself were in the house drinking a glass of ale when we came out to the corner, we commenced talking about some business we had in a friendly way. Carr's brother and myself had a difficulty last Monday evening. I told Carr at the time that I could whip him and his brother; when we met last evening he said that his brother would be down to-day and why him; he (Carr) threw off his coat and I did the same; he went for a man to lend him; when they came back he made at me and struck me, and I struck him; Carr then drew a knife and struck me four or five times; I called to the men that he was stabbing me and to take him away; I saw the knife in Carr's hand; while I was being cut there were present William Campbell, James Campbell, Thomas Maloy, and Mary Maloy, after I was cut, I was taken to Dr. Balten's office, and from there to Dr. Lazo to the house of Thomas Maloy, where I am now, at the time I make this, and I feel and think that I will die from the effects of the cuts inflicted on me by Andrew Carr.

Ferson signed the statement by making his "mark," being physically unable to write. He came here from Philadelphia some two or three weeks since, to seek employment, but had not found any. He is about forty years of age, and has a wife and six children. Nothing seems to be a stranger here, and he has not yet been arrested.

PITTSBURGH MAYOR'S OFFICE.

Business Transacted During the Month—The Receipts $2,308 30.

Mr. J. S. Patterson, Mayor's